

Mendocino Presbyterian Church
Lansing Street
Mendocino
Mendocino County
California

HABS No. CA-2229

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23-MENCI,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Addendum to
MENDOCINO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HABS No. CA-2229

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- Location: 44831 Main Street (former address: Lansing Street),
Mendocino, County Assessor Parcels #119-250-27 and 28,
Mendocino County, California
- Significance: The Mendocino Presbyterian Church is thought to be the
oldest Presbyterian Church in continuous use in northern
California.
- Description: Constructed of prime growth redwood milled in Mendocino,
the Presbyterian church was designed in an English Gothic
style. The steeple is 78 feet high. The rectangular nave
measures 33 x 54 feet. Ceiling construction resembles that
of a ship hull turned upside down. The tower narthex
measures 14 x 14 feet. The windows are stained glass.
- In the early part of the twentieth century, the rear third
of the sanctuary was walled off, Sunday School classrooms
were placed downstairs, and a social hall was installed
upstairs. A concrete foundation was put under the church
circa 1943.
- History: Commencing on October 7, 1867, construction of the church
was completed by July 5, 1868, when the building was
dedicated. Architects were S.C. Bugbee and Son of San
Francisco. The church originally faced the ocean on the
Old Coast Highway (also called Pacific Street). That
street no longer exists so access to the church is from
Lansing/Main Street.
- The Mendocino Presbyterian congregation was started in 1859
with Mendocino pioneers Peter Kelly and Jerome B. Ford as
early superintendents. The church figured prominently in
the movie "Johnny Belinda," filmed in 1943. Profits from
renting the church to the filmmakers were used to
rehabilitate the structure and put a concrete foundation
under it. The church is in excellent condition and still
serves its original use.
- Sources: Mendocino Beacon (newspaper), J.B. Ford diaries, records of
Mendocino Historical Research, Inc., and Mendocino,
published in 1973 by Stebbins/Bear.

Prepared by: Eleanor F. Sverko and Paul Tay, May 27, 1986

Transmitted to the Library of Congress in June, 1988 by
Holly K. Chamberlain.

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013